

Bible Society Record

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Pacific School of
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A PICTURE WITH A PURPOSE

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BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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The Bible and Unwise Economy

By Robert E. Speer, D.D., LL.D.

For over a generation one of the world leaders in the great cause of foreign missions, Dr. Speer, Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., and a former President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, is a Vice-President of the American Bible Society.



ROBERT E. SPEER

THERE is an economy that is never wise or right. *It is economy in making the Bible available for men in hard times.*

When the days are dark, men need its light.

When the times are hard, men need its comfort.

When the outlook is discouraging, men need its confidence.

When despair is abroad, men need its word of hope.

There are luxuries that may well be spared. There are even necessities that can be curtailed. But the Bible, indispensable at all times, is still more indispensable in times like these today.

The Bible is not a book of political maxims or of economic theories. It is not a book of maxims or theories at all. It is a book of living principles. Its spirit is the spirit of brotherliness and good will. It is a summons to

helpfulness: "Bear ye one another's burdens." It is a summons also to self-respecting independence: "Let every man bear his own burden." It teaches charity, but also justice. It calls us to the giving and serving which the strong owe to the weak, and those who have to those who lack; but it also strikes straight and clear at the moral defects in individuals which are responsible for a large part of the poverty and suffering of the world; and also at the moral and economic defects in society, in business relations, and in the distribution of the common resources of the world, which are responsible for the remaining part.

Christ is the only hope of individuals and of society. And the Bible is the only book which tells his story. It alone preserves his words, which are spirit and life. It alone records his deeds by which he saved the world and would save it now if we would obey him.

The best thing men can do is to spread the Bible and to get it read and obeyed. This would be the end of hard times, of poverty, of unemployment, of injustice, or wrong, or war.

The last place to economize is in our gifts to spread over America and the whole world the gospel and the book which contains it.

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In Memoriam

George Washington

February 22, 1732—December 14, 1799

... Above all, the pure and benign light of Revelation has had a meliorating influence on mankind, and increased the blessings of society.

Abraham Lincoln

February 12, 1809—April 15, 1865

I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this book upon reason that you can and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man.

Colportage in Panama

By the Rev. R. R. Gregory, Secretary, Caribbean Agency

THE accident of geography has made Panama a crossroads of world commerce. This republic, lying on the narrow isthmus that joins North and South America is bisected by the Canal, into which more than four hundred million dollars of American money have been poured. The small republic that numbers less than half a million people is the symbol of two civilizations knocking at her gates: the Spanish-Indian culture of colonial days, and that of the Anglo-Saxon America which has revolutionized her existence within the last quarter century.

The era of internal development and an ambitious program of public works, especially road construction, began five years ago. The dream of the Pan American highway that shall some day serve as an auto road from the Rio Grande to the countries south of Panama is taking form day by day. Twelve million dollars have been spent on road development.



FORGING AHEAD ON THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY

Workers displaying one-cent Scripture portions, 225 miles from Panama City

Eighty percent of the three hundred miles from Panama City to the border of Costa Rica is almost completed. This will open up the most populous section of the Republic, that heretofore has been closed to the world.

Panama has done exceedingly well in her program of establishing a few grades of public schooling in many of the interior towns and villages. This is very highly appreciated by many. On account of the fertility of the soil and the variety of food products and also superior cattle, this region is well populated with a class of people that will some day become the real backbone of the country.

Apart from the terminal cities of the Canal and parts of the provinces of Bocas del Toro and Chiriqui, very little colportage work has

been done. A year ago we planned to send Mr. R. C. Halliday, an experienced colporteur, into the rapidly developing region referred to above; that is, the provinces bordering on the



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PANAMA NATIONAL INSTITUTE
Enrollment—1,800 students

Pacific coast and north of Panama City. Mr. Halliday was to have worked there from January to the end of the dry season, in May. However, the liberal character of the people, together with the great need and the unusually light rainy season, caused us to continue his work a few months more. The time was extended, so that now the work has continued an entire year, and still there is much territory left for the colporteur.

Mr. Halliday has had a very successful campaign of colportage work. By auto, on mule



INTERIOR VILLAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL

back, and on foot, a most interesting piece of work was carried on. Full notes have been taken of the campaign, and should be of great value to mission organizations desiring to fol-

low up this piece of pioneer work. Two incidents in the year's work will not be amiss.

Stuck on the Hill

The auto carrying Mr. Halliday and his helper was, no doubt, the only one functioning that far south of North America. They had just sown two small towns in the south end of the Azuero peninsula for the first time in their history. Five hundred Gospels had been left behind, and they were returning home very happy. Only one bad hill remained between them and civilization.



MR. HALLIDAY ON HIS JOB

They hoped soon to be over that, but halfway up the hill, the engine played out. They tried every way to get life into it, but all in vain. The loose gravel and stones held them every time, and there seemed nothing else to do but send back to the little village and have an ox team come and pull them up the hill. It was getting late, and soon the

sun would be setting on a strange tropical road.

It did seem so stupid to be held up there to no purpose when the main work of the day had been done. So the colporteur walked to the top of the grade with a calabash full of eggs that had been traded for Bibles, and, seeing that he was of no other use, started to pray and glorify God for the "hard place," because He would surely work it together with all other things for His and others' good. Just then a very large man with a heavy voice came up the hill from the opposite direction. When he found that among the men were those circulating the Bible, he at once began to arouse the enthusiasm of all the others to help earnestly in a good work. So good was his example that, with his strong shoulders and loud cheers, he soon had the crowd pushing the machine up the hill. Then he wanted to buy a Bible, but all had been sold. However, he came all the way back the next day, and not only bought a Bible, but helped them dispose of a goodly number in a region where no auto or other vehicle has ever been.

Will Night Overtake Him on the Road?

A heavy day's work was just being finished

at La Mesa, a small pueblo in southern Panama, and the colporteur was preparing to dash over the mountain on mule back by a strange road to his night's lodging. He needed every minute of his time to make it by daylight. As he left the place, he recognized a man to whom he had sold a Bible earlier in the day. This fellow's case had been one that is not easy to forget. He had asked the colporteur if he sold the Protestant Bible and had received a rather evasive answer, because, in most cases in Catholic countries, a direct reply would have unduly prejudiced the prospective purchaser. The man had insisted, however, that he wanted a Protestant Bible; he was becoming suspicious of his own system of religion, he said. So the deal had been quickly closed.

Now, to the colporteur's surprise, the man's face wore a downcast expression. "I am sorry I bought that Bible," he said. "Why?" he was asked. "Because I cannot read." "Then, why did you buy it?" "Because I have a son who can read, and I thought he would read it to me; but he is too lazy, and how am I to understand what it says?" "Yes, how?" thought the colporteur.

Explanations of the book and its message were quickly given, for night was hastening on.

"Will I not get lost on the road?" asked the colporteur. "No," said the native, "take the first road to the left after passing the graveyard; and then, on crossing the river, turn again to the left when you come to a large espeve tree." "Well," was the last rejoinder, "I must not tarry lest night overtake me on the road." Off he rode and, by faithfully following the man's directions, got safely home. The last words of the colporteur to this man reechoed again and again in the heart of this proclaimer of good news, "Lest night overtake me on the road." He pulled in safely because he followed the other fellow's advice; but how about that other fellow? Will he pull in safely? Will night overtake him on the road?



THE FIRST COPY OF SCRIPTURES SOLD IN SANTA ROSA, AND THE PURCHASER

Impressions from the Annual Meeting of the Advisory Council

By the Rev. J. A. MacLean, Jr., D.D., Representative of the Southern Presbyterian Church

ON December 3, last, the writer enjoyed the privilege of attending the annual meeting of the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society, in New York. This council is composed of the official representatives of twenty-nine denominations, all of which contribute to the work of the Society. Feeling that individual members of our own communion, as well as other supporting churches, would like to know more about the work of this great organization, I am writing briefly of my impressions of this meeting.

Bible House

First of all, a visitor is struck by the physical equipment of the Bible Society. A solid and substantial building, of imposing size, located at Astor Place, opposite Wanamaker's Store, in the mid-section of the eastern metropolis, proclaims the fact that the Bible has its place and is recognized here, at the nerve center of the nation. This building provides adequately for all departments of the Society's work, and through that portion which is rented, substantially increases its annual income.

Personnel

Upon entering the building and mingling with the officers and other employees, one is impressed by the atmosphere of cordiality and friendliness. We have all heard of the little boy who prayed that God would make "all bad people good, and all good people nice." In the personnel of the whole staff both prayers have been answered, and a visitor feels that it is a pleasure as well as an inspiration to be brought into personal contact with the genial and courteous men and women who are the servants of this great Christian institution.

Cooperative Movement

As members of the Advisory Council assemble, we begin to realize more and more that this is no small organization engaged in a narrow or provincial program, but that all sections of our country, and nearly all the great denominations of Protestant America are here. There is an added inspiration in the catholicity of such a work, and there is an absolute freedom from any manifestation of narrow or selfish interests. It is good to know that the great denominations can cooperate whole-heartedly and unreservedly in a world-wide Christian enterprise, and it is through such channels that the Spirit of God is ever moving and working in the

development of a unity of the spirit among Christian people.

Business-like Methods

The work of the Society is thoroughly organized and systematized, and it is evident each officer has carefully prepared for the presentation of that part of the program for which he is responsible. Of course, no group of men such as the Advisory Council could make an exhaustive study of so large a work in the course of a day. But, with a comprehensive statement and clear analysis before them, the Council can and does act in an advisory manner, helping to mold and direct the policies and activities of the Society, and giving expression to the wishes and interests of the millions of constituents whom they represent.

Size of the Work

As the Council listen to the reports and recommendations presented by the secretaries and treasurer, our vision widens, and we begin to realize something of the vastness of the enterprise. Geographically, the whole globe constitutes our field, and we endeavor to visualize the activities of the ten sectional Agencies in the United States and of the twelve Foreign Agencies, covering a large portion of the world. We learn that the Society is translating the Bible, or portions of it, into scores of languages and dialects, and that last year more than eleven millions of Scriptures and portions of Scriptures were distributed by our representatives, in one hundred and eighty-four languages, not including thirty-seven hundred Scriptures for the blind, in various systems and languages.

Fundamental and Essential

The longer one's attention is focused on the production and distribution of the Bible, the more one begins to realize that here is the corner stone of the program of the church.

Preaching is important, but where does the preacher procure his material?

Foreign missions must be carried on, but where does the missionary find his message?

Religious education is of vital importance, but what does the trained educator teach?

Here is an institution whose work is absolutely fundamental and primary, for without the Bible the whole program of organized Christianity would collapse. Foreign mission-

(Continued on page 24)

The Advisory Council Speaks

Action taken at its annual meeting on December 3, 1930.

THE undersigned members of the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society, representing twenty of the denominations supporting the work of the Society, desire to express their appreciation of the frank and thoroughgoing way in which the executive officers of the American Bible Society have opened up to them all matters connected with the operation of the Society. These have included the sources of income as well as the various items of expenditure. We have followed with particular interest the facts and figures relating to translation, publication, and distribution of the Scriptures.

The budget proposed for 1931 commends itself to us. We wish especially to express our gratification at the evident painstaking care with which it was made up. As far as time has permitted, we have studied its various elements. We record our conviction that it is a very conservative estimate of the work that should be done by the Society during the ensuing year. Indeed we have been impressed anew by the widening fields of opportunity which the funds at the disposal of the Society or likely to be found within the coming year are wholly inadequate to meet. To mention but three outstanding fields that are whitening to harvest,—China, Japan, and Brazil,—we are convinced that very much more should be done in them than will be possible unless the income of the Society is increased beyond present expectations.

In this connection we desire to call the attention of the communions represented in the Advisory Council to the inestimable service the Bible Society is rendering both at home and abroad. Its work is fundamental. No one of our missionary societies could operate with anything approaching present efficiency but for the service of this Society, which places at the disposal of the representatives of the churches in all mission fields the textbook of their faith—the abiding message of the Lord. The Bible Society is not so much debtor to the churches for the missionary gifts which it receives as the churches are debtors to the Bible Society. Here is an evident illustration of the ancient saying that bread cast upon the waters does return.

This work should receive larger support than is being given to it. Never, we think, was it in safer hands than today. The officers of the Society and the members of various committees very evidently are faithfully discharging the trust committed to them.

The fact that the giving of the churches has been lessening in amount occasions us deep concern. We believe that if the people can be brought to realize the nature, extent, and necessity of the work done by the American Bible Society in supporting, extending, and helping to make permanent the missionary work of the churches, they would respond out of glad and grateful hearts.

Approved and Signed by:

<i>Representative</i>	<i>Denomination</i>
REV. ROSS D. MURPHY.....	Church of the Brethren
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REV. TITUS A. ALSPACH, D.D.....	Reformed Church in U. S.
MR. M. E. KERN.....	Seventh-day Adventists

The following Members of the Advisory Council were unable to be present:

REV. CHAS. E. BURTON, D.D. }	Congregational and Christian Churches
REV. H. M. HAINER }	
REV. FINIS S. IDLEMAN, D.D.....	Disciples of Christ
REV. C. G. ERICKSON, D.D.....	Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of N. A.
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REV. S. B. WALLACE.....	Colored Methodist Episcopal Church
REV. HENRY DARLINGTON, D.D.....	Protestant Episcopal Church
REV. S. C. ENCK, D.D.....	United Brethren in Christ

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aries are among the best friends of the Bible Society, and enthusiastically support its program, because they recognize the necessity of its work.

The Future

The Bible Society has many friends and supporters, and its work has had a large and steady growth. There is no danger of its being wrecked upon the rocks of industrial and economic depression. Its work will be permanent and abiding. Unfortunately, like all other Christian institutions, the Society is keenly feeling the effects of "hard times," and the Advisory Council was grieved to learn that certain activities would have to be curtailed, for lack of funds. The Secretaries showed a fine spirit and furnished the cloud's silver lining by recommending, on their own initiative, that the program in the field should go on and that the cut be applied to the promotional side of the work, of which they had direct charge.

However, we are forced to realize that when the promotional agencies are out, the whole work inevitably suffers, in the end. Moved by the conviction that world conditions called for a program of expansion, rather than retrenchment, and that a cut of any sort, wherever applied, would result in most unfortunate consequences, members of the Council expressed their determination to do everything in their power to enable their constituents to recognize the importance, and respond to the needs, of the Society.

After a full day, memorable for the enjoyment of delightful fellowship and gracious hospitality, the Advisory Council adjourned: its members uplifted and inspired by the consideration of a great task, nobly undertaken and faithfully carried on, and grateful for the privilege of participating, with other Christians, in a world-wide movement to provide the Word of God for all men, in their own language, that their souls may be fed upon the Bread of Life.

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A Picture with a Purpose

ATTRACTION indeed are the sturdy samples of buoyant youth which adorn this issue. Such wholesome looking girls are a joy to behold and a happy augury for the future. Even if only on this score, the picture would become our cover.

But it is there for a further purpose. These girls are patently full of life and fun. Yet, the photograph was taken not to record that fact, but as an outcome of their choosing to spend many hours of the last summer vacation in reading the Bible through. Those disturbed by and about some of the present day youth can see here reason for good cheer. For the youth of today do include such as these who, with their evident joy in life and good times, also delight in things of the spirit.

These girls hail from our National Capital. Incidentally, this lends additional appropriateness to their appearance on our February issue. Are not February and the National Capital linked in proud memories of our nation's two greatest benefactors and examples—Washington and Lincoln,—worthy heroes of American youth? The story of the eleven-year-old twins, Kathleen the smiling one on the left and Eileen on the right, was given in part on page 198 in our December issue. The incident of sisterly affection and generosity therein mentioned adds a delightful element. Such girls, and there are surely many in our great population, are an asset for our country.

Further, these girls did not just happen to

choose to read the Bible. They were invited and incited by the thoughtful and purposeful efforts of others. To those disturbed over the neglect of the Bible, this picture brings the fact that there are those who are stimulating and developing the reading of the Bible. Here and there throughout our country, individuals and groups, perhaps unknown to many and yet with real success in their own spheres, are bringing old and young back to the Bible.

In this particular case the factor was the National Community Bible Readers' League with headquarters at Washington, D. C. Organized in 1924, one of its methods has been to conduct contests, for success in which it offers prizes. Its rules are free from red tape and much detail. They call for thoughtful reading of the Bible, the contestants choosing for themselves the portions to be read. Prizes are awarded in accordance with the amount and thoroughness of their reading. The latest contest was a series of twelve fair questions, such as: "How many books of the Bible have you read? Give list and spell names correctly." "Select any book you read and give a brief summary of it." "Name some of the characters about whom you read which you admire, and give reasons for admiration." In Washington, D. C., thirty-nine boys and girls between the ages of eleven and sixteen read the entire New Testament through in connection with the contest of last summer, which was the fourth held by the league. Adults also en-

tered. While the league is frankly concerned with interesting children in Bible reading, it has as a main purpose the reviving of a general practice of reading and studying the Scriptures. There are 1,600 subscribers who are pledged to read the Bible regularly.

Another group stimulating the reading of the Bible—The National Home Study Council, also of Washington, D. C.,—is mentioned in the

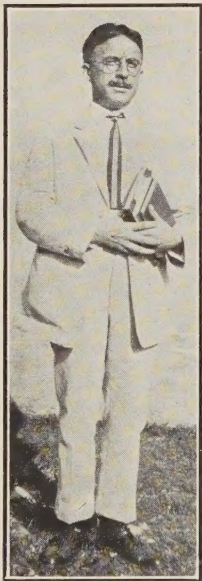
brief article of this issue entitled "People Want the Bible." There are other groups and organizations scattered over our land with like purpose. There is room and call also for still wider and more vigorous efforts.

And so the picture stands on the cover inviting all to rejoice in our country's great asset—her aspiring youth—and to share in bringing that youth and the Bible together.

Cuba and the Bible

By J. Marcial-Dorado, Ph.D., Secretary, West Indies Agency

TO everyone the love the Cubans have for the Bible comes as a surprise. Each year, the people of Cuba acquire, on an average, 5,000 Bibles, 3,000 Testaments, and 40,000 portions (Gospels, Psalms, and Epistles). More than half of the Scriptures received by the West Indies Agency remain in this famous land of sugar. And these thousands of copies of sacred text have an ample and equitable distribution among the different social classes. In the country and in the cities, the colporteurs and correspondents sell alike to workmen and merchants; who each year request more books, as they say that day by day they are more interested in, and consoled by, the reading of it. In the clubs and intellectual centers, the Secretary and his as-



COLPORTEUR
LOPEZ

sistants sell by correspondence and conferences. Missionaries and voluntary workers aid, in their churches and fields of labor, this work of the circulation of the Bible, and also reach all social classes. People in general distinguish the Bible workers with their sympathy, being accustomed to see them and deal with them, and finding them always faithful, optimistic and enthusiastic in the cause of Christ.

One of the most surprising examples of the extension and distribution of the Bible is offered by the district of Havana, known and visited as the most beautiful city of the West Indies Agency. This city and its surroundings have acquired during the last four years, 11,000 Bibles, 4,300 Testaments, and 51,000 portions. The colporteur of the district, Mr. V. Lopez, has broken the record; he alone selling, during this period, 9,000 Bibles, 3,000 Testaments, and 37,000 portions.

It is interesting to note what has been said to this colporteur by a little girl, a drunkard, a chauffeur, a lawyer, and a cigarmaker.

The little girl: "Take this cent and give me another book like the one I bought yesterday at the door of my house. Do you remember? This little book is worth more than all those



AN AMERICAN PLANTATION IN CUBA, WITH A TYPICAL HOUSE CALLED "BOHIO"

they have given me to read in the school. It is a pity that the school books do not have the story of the good Jesus."

The former drunkard: "Sir, I am very glad to see you again. Do you remember that day when I bought a Bible, and gave you abusive words? Well, sir, I was drunk then, as I nearly always was. To-day I have come to buy another Bible, a dearer one, of better quality, because this book is a *treasure*. Its reading has made me another man. Do you not see that I am not now a drunkard?"

The chauffeur: "Listen, friend, you man with the Bibles! Sell me one. A friend of mine—also a chauffeur—tells me that this book contains more truth, and gives more consolation, than any other book he has read."

The lawyer: "I have a Bible, but I am going

For more than three years now, Cuba has been passing through sore trials on account of the difficult situation in which she finds herself, industrially and commercially; and yet, many a time recurs the case of persons who have very little money with which to buy bread, nevertheless buying Bibles. In the country and in various suburbs of the city, persons who have no money offer the colporteur bananas and eggs for a copy of the Scriptures. On a certain occasion, a conductor of an autobus carried a colporteur ten trips free of charge to pay for a Bible. During five days a group of soldiers took each day a half-hour of the time of the colporteur, that he should read the Bible to them and point out important verses and passages. After the reading, each soldier bought a Bible.

Among the readers it is the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the cures and miracles, the Proverbs, and Psalms, which seem to have most attracted and held the interest. Among the intellectual classes and student groups, the letters of Paul are much read and discussed. The versions of the Bible Societies are much eulogized and in Spanish the version of Cipriano de Valera is preferred.

During the past



CHILDREN OF THE TENEMENT: HAVANA

to take another copy from you to give to a friend who does not know the fundamental principles of the real Christ,—as I did not know them, either, before I read it."

The cigarmaker: "I am going to tell you what I really think of the Bible. I always thought that the best way to spend my time agreeably was in smoking a good cigar. Now, I am reading the Bible, and believe that I occupy my time better; and I enjoy myself as never before. I now know what it is to nourish my heart and soul with good ideas."

These opinions of various classes of persons reveal the influence that the Holy Bible has on many souls. A large part of the progressive feeling that is noted in the customs and education in Cuba, is due to the Bible. It appears as if the reading of it awakens the love of study, of work, of liberty, and of sacrifice.

four years, also the Roman Catholics have shown more interest in the reading of the Bible, on the recommendation of some of the bishops. However, the versions of Scio and Amat are expensive and unwieldy, and difficult to secure, as they are sold in few and little-known places. For this reason the Catholics resort to our colporteurs and Bible stores when they wish to obtain a copy of the Scriptures.

To us, the explanation of the fact that each passing year shows Cuba's increased interest in the Bible is, that the American Bible Society is rendering good service to all. To men of the faith and to men of science she furnishes the Book of their affections and of their studies. But, above all, she serves to the disconsolate of mind and heart, that which they seek—spiritual peace and tranquillity.

A Lawyer's Bible

By Edward Jeffries Rees

FROM the *Christian Advocate*, Nashville, of January 9, we take this letter with its incidental tribute to Bible Sunday and special tribute to the Bible. The original title is slightly different.

"Since the recent and appropriate observance of that most significant and helpful of days in the church, Universal Bible Sunday, there has dashed before my memory an experience too rich to be allowed to pass in forgetfulness.

"My lot chanced to fall for a happy ten days within the bounds of a brother minister's parish, where the 'Old, Old Story' was told and retold, and the message was heard by sinner and saint.

"We found ourselves upon one delightful afternoon in a lawyer's office. The usual books of law were there in abundance, many of them being covered with rich and highly colored bindings. The choicest of poems, mottoes, and thoughtful expressions of the world's great men were hung and placarded in conspicuous places in that singular office. The reading of them would make any lawyer, parson, or client think, and think again. Our lawyer friend showed them to us with great pride and unusual appreciation. Then, he reached into his desk drawer and drew out his Bible, assuring us that he 'couldn't practice law without that "ole" Book.'

"Day was dying in the west. The lights of

the little city had come on. The presence of an Unseen Guest seemed near, and the visiting pastor asked: 'May we have a word of prayer before going home to the evening meal?' At once, the lawyer friend replied, 'Surely.' We stood with reverently bowed heads. God's voice spoke to us as we lifted our voice to him, and then the 'Amen' was said. My friend engaged in legal pursuits said: 'Now, preacher, I'm not going to take that drink when I get home this evening,' and we all laughed. I was informed by one who knew that the prayer stopped the plan of a drink before supper. 'Well,' as my teacher of Pastoral Theology used to smile and say: 'Thank God for that.'

"Then the real part of the story which prompted this writing was his relating an experience on the train, when he was going to a neighboring city to assist in trying a case in court. Said he, 'As I packed my bag, as was my usual custom, I placed my Bible in the bag.' 'For,' he said, 'I often have to refer to places of help and importance in it when I'm pleading a case before the judge. But I wasn't on the train long until I met up with some old friends,' he continued, 'and they offered me a bottle of booze. I took it, opened my bag, and there I saw my Bible. I handed it back to my friends. I would not accept it. That liquor did not belong in the same place with the Bible.'"

People Want the Bible

UNIVERSAL yearning for more knowledge of the Bible is on the increase, according to the records of the National Home Study Council, Washington, D. C. One nondenominational school in this country, which is devoted exclusively to Biblical teaching, is reported to have students and organized classes in the equatorial and polar regions, in every state in this country and in virtually every important country of the world.

One student, for example, is an officer of an Alaskan fisheries company who works out his lessons in a cabin of a boat which sails in the Bering Sea and the Yukon River. Another is a European opera singer who was a baroness during the Czarist régime in Russia. In equatorial Africa, the school has a class which travels to its meeting place in oxcarts.

Children in their teens and octogenarians are on the rolls of this school, which is disseminating knowledge of the Bible by mail. Some are interested in Bible study because of its value in the pursuit of law, literature, his-

tory, and religion. For the most part, however, the students are said to take up correspondence study of the Bible because of a desire to become better Christians and to fortify themselves with knowledge which will aid them in combating arguments and attacks.

—*Christian Advocate*, Kansas City.

Girls Turn to the Bible

FROM all over the world there come stories of the awakening interest which girls are taking in the Bible. Life is complex; they are venturing on paths their mothers never traveled; they need a guide, and are seeking it in the Bible. "Why did no one ever talk like that to us before?" was the comment of a group of girls whom a secretary of the Y. W. C. A. addressed on "Meeting God on the Streets of ———." "It is something we have always wanted to know."

Fifty students registered for the Bible school, conducted by the Y. W. C. A. in the Burckharthaus (the living house) in Berlin.

—*Pittsburgh Christian Advocate*.

Notes and Comments

A SHIPMENT of seventy-three cases of Scriptures weighing almost four tons started in January for the La Plata Agency. The portions, 120,000, were all in Spanish. The Bibles and Testaments were in Spanish, Arabic, Danish, and Italian.

A FRIEND sends us this account of a rather unusual incident:

As my sister was waiting to cross Main Street in New Rochelle at a very busy corner, she heard a voice reciting the 23d Psalm. It was the policeman who was directing the traffic who was reciting it to a man who was guarding a nearby manhole. As my sister crossed the street, she said to the officer: "Are you trying to teach him that Psalm?" "Yes," he replied disgustedly. "This fellow does not know his Psalms!" She gave each man a card on which was printed the 23d Psalm with Mrs. Mott's comments. As my sister left the corner the policeman was directing the traffic, while the other man read aloud the printing on the card. I have distributed about five hundred of these cards.

ONE of our octogenarian friends of Minnesota, in ordering some Scripture portions for distribution, reports the fact that fifty years ago he had visited three counties in Wisconsin for the American Bible Society.

THE *Democrat* of Georgetown, Ohio, reports an item of interest to our readers. It was the presentation by Colonel Ulysses S. Grant 2d of a Bible belonging to his grandfather, President Grant, to the memorial collection of personal effects of General Grant at the little school-house in which he attended school when a lad. The Bible had been a gift of the American Bible Society to General Grant and used by him when he took the oath of office as President of the United States. "He used it as his special Bible during the remainder of his life."

A PLEASED and appreciative customer in Brazil thus expresses himself, as transmitted by Agency Secretary Tucker:

The Testaments which I asked for came promptly, and are entirely satisfactory. It is more and more a wonder to me, how you can sell such lovely books in so many languages for such small prices. As the years go by and I see the wonderful work you do in putting the Word of God into the hands of the people, I am more and more impressed by the magnitude of it.

Is there not something charming in a letter like this? The charm is greater because it came in lead pencil in a very boyish hand.

Dear American Bible Society:

I am a little boy nine years old. The preacher said to have a Bible. I need one anyway. I belong to the Revival Church. I just wanted to see how much one would cost.

Good-by.

Wapato, Wash.

A YOUNG Life Member of the Society helped to swell our December income through the Sharon and Linn Grove Auxiliary Bible Society of Iowa, and sent this cheering and interesting message:

Dear Bible Society Workers: I like to give to your cause and like to get your letters and Bible Society RECORDS. I am twelve years old and in the seventh grade. I earned all the money I am sending [\$1.81.—Ed.], and I gave some more than the tithe because I love your work so much. I earned 50c of it as a prize for a W.C.T.U. notebook. The other of it is what I have been saving in my little barrel. I am very interested in your work and I like very much to hear from you. Hoping you will not be disappointed in the harvest of money you gather at this Christmas time.

Thy Word Is Life

BY RALPH WELLES KEELER

The weaving of our city's life
Is rich with threads of fine spun gold
From hearts that in Thy deathless Word
Have learned the truth through ages told.

Thy Word is Life, O God above!
And grows in power for hearts that know
The beauty of Thy boundless love,
And heavenly kingdom here below.

For those who pass Thy torch along
To souls that blindly grope for light,
We thank Thee, while we pray that all
May see afar Thy vision bright.

O may Thy Word transform and bless
The lives of all who touch our shore,
That brotherhood, and peace, and love
May reign supreme forever more.

The Bible and Success

Mr. J. C. Penney, the originator and proprietor of the great chain of Penney stores, had this to say about the Bible in a recent issue of the Christian Herald under the caption "Lines of a Layman."

FOR thirty years, as a clerk and executive, I have worked in American business. I have seen aspirants fall and businesses fail. I have seen the ambitious prosper and ventures thrive. And invariably it has been the majority of the persons of commendable characters who permanently succeeded, and the majority of those of unworthy principles who failed even if temporary success might have been theirs. The former, knowingly or unknowingly, practiced Biblical precepts. The latter did not. And because of such sustained observation, seeing the results, mine is the theory that the Bible is as necessary for the operation of a profitable business as twine, typewriters, or trucks.

Visiting the Wounded in Brazil with the Gospels

A FRIEND of the Bible and of the Society, concerned about recent incidents in Brazil, sent a special contribution with a request that it be used "for distributing Gospels to men wounded in the revolution in Brazil, especially those under General Miguel Costa and General Juarez Tavora." General Costa sent grateful thanks through Dr. Tucker to the donor. The colporteurs who made the distribution have given the following report:

"We visited the hospital of the second military region located at Cambucy. The doctor in charge received us very cordially. We explained our mission. He said, that on account of the very serious condition of some of the men it would not be convenient for us to see them. He called three nurses and gave instructions that the distribution of the little Gospels be made among those who were not so seriously ill. When we told the doctor that a Christian lady in the United States and the American Bible Society were interested in giving these Gospels to the men, he showed great interest in having us see that the booklets were placed in the hands of the men indicated. We distributed 160 Gospels."

"We visited the hospital near the Luz station. The doctor in charge, when told of our desire to visit the men, at first said that without

an order from General Miguel Costa he could not let us in. When he learned from one of the nurses the nature of our mission, he very gladly gave permission for the distribution of the Gospels among the men. We gave out 200 copies.

"Again: At one place we did not find any one seriously wounded, but gave to the men who were there 200 copies. At the hospital camp near Lapa, we distributed 250 Gospels and gave a Bible to a soldier who was very anxious to have a copy. All the soldiers who received Gospels thanked us heartily and promised to read them."

A ministerial student, residing for reasons of health in a region where large numbers of tuberculous cases are gathered, writing of his work among them, says: "In a sanatorium here, I sold six New Testaments and distributed a few Gospels. Later, one of the poor inmates having no money with which to buy, wrote me a note expressing a deep desire to read the entire Bible. I gave him a copy. He is now reading it with interest and loans it to others in the sanatorium to read. At present, I am forbidden to walk around; but, as soon as the doctor gives me permission, I will visit the many boarding houses and other places where there are sick people in this region."

• • •

When to Give

A PARAGRAPH in the will of one of our recently deceased donors gives food for thought. He evidently shared the joy of giving during his lifetime so strongly emphasized and generously illustrated by the late great philanthropist, Nathan Straus. We quote:

"The bequests to the institutions named in this and the preceding two paragraphs of this, my Will, do not capitalize in many instances the sums which I have been giving to them yearly for many years; and there are many other institutions to which I have been similarly contributing, but to which I make no bequests. The reason is not because of any change in my interest in, or appreciation of, these institutions or the work that they are doing, but because my theory and practice of giving are inconsistent therewith. I have always felt that it was better to give regularly and generously from income rather than accumulate principal with the expectation of mak-

ing large gifts at the end. I believe that money set to work immediately is better used than if accumulated with the intention of doing great things with it afterwards. These plans often are forgotten or fail to be carried out, and I firmly believe that there is much greater satisfaction in giving money away as you go along than in keeping it and watching it grow in your own hands. Money never catches up with time, and good done with a little money now may be far greater than that done with a great deal more later on and is more sure to be done. I wish to commend, therefore, this plan of living and giving to my children and grandchildren. If they will live well within their incomes, if they will give regularly and carefully each year from their savings and, as their incomes grow larger, increase their giving, they will find great satisfaction from such a course and will be much happier than if they spend all they have on themselves or hoard it."

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1931

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

INSTITUTED 1816

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

THE American Bible Society was instituted in 1816 with the sole object of encouraging wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment.

Its program is world-wide and includes the translation of the Scriptures into the languages and common dialects of the people; the publication of the Scriptures in styles suitable and convenient, and at the lowest possible cost; the distribution of the Scriptures throughout the world at cost or free, as a missionary program.

Membership in the Society consists of four classes, each with its special privileges:

1. Annual Members are constituted by an annual subscription of \$5.00.
2. Life Members are constituted by a subscription of \$50.00 at one time.
3. Life Directors are constituted by a subscription of \$150.00 in one or two payments.
4. Memorial Members are constituted by a contribution of \$100.00. The contributor names the one in whose memory the Membership is created. The Bible is distributed through the years in memory of such a person.

Handsome engraved certificates are presented to Life Directors and Life Members.

JANUARY MEETING OF THE BOARD

THE ninth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and fifteenth year was held at the Bible House, Astor Place, New York, on Thursday, January 8, 1931, at 3:30 o'clock p. m. Mr. Winthrop M. Tuttle presided.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Assistant Secretary Fowle.

The minutes of the eighth stated meeting were presented and approved.

Recording Secretary Chamberlain presented to the chairman a gavel bearing on its head a silver plate with the inscription:

"Presented to the American Bible Society by the Bishop of Harrisburg, James Henry Darlington. Head made from the U. S. Frigate Constitution 'Old Ironsides.' Handle from Lord Nelson's Flagship 'Victory,'"

and read a letter from Mrs. Darlington stating that it had been the intention of Bishop Darlington to present to the Bible Society this gavel made from wood obtained from the two historic ships mentioned. The gavel was accepted and the Secretary requested to send an appropriate letter of thanks and appreciation.

Mr. William W. Hall, being present at a meeting of the Board for the first time, was introduced and welcomed.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved.

On recommendation of the Committee of General Reference, Mr. Jeremiah R. Van Brunt, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was elected a Manager and was appointed a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Rev. Frederick W. Jackson, who had completed a short term in charge of the Central Agency, was requested to continue for a further period of five or six months.

General Secretary Brown reported a very encouraging and substantial increase in gifts from individuals as a response to special appeals made in December, making receipts for that month from this source the largest in the history of the Society, approximately \$36,000, and bringing the total of receipts from individuals in 1930 almost up to those for 1929 which had been the highest in the record of the Society.

The Treasurer reported the following consignments to the Society's Foreign Agencies during the month of November, 1930: Arabic Levant, 2 volumes, valued at \$2.42; Brazil, 4,626 volumes, valued at \$2,356.02; Caribbean, 2,137 volumes, valued at \$1,396.18; La Plata, 1 volume, valued at \$5.40; Mexico, 8,000 volumes, valued at \$113.46; Upper Andes, 1 volume, valued at 54 cents; West Indies, 1,840 volumes, valued at \$618.06; total volumes, 16,607; total value, \$4,492.08.

The issues from the Bible House during the month of November were 580,483 volumes.

CASH RECEIPTS IN DECEMBER, 1930

LEGACIES	
Knapp, Mary A., Ithaca, N. Y.	\$ 500 00
Powell, E. M., Dallas Co., Texas	2,000 00
Strang, Sarah L., Guthrie, Okla.	887 47
Swain, Emma W., Sinclair, Ill.	100 00

White, Mary A., Boston, Mass.	\$4,000 00
Wilkins, Lewis N., Middleboro, Mass.	2,000 00
	\$9,487 47

ANNUITY GIFTS	
Amount received during the month	\$28,087 81

AUXILIARY SOCIETIES	
	Received on Donation Book Account
Alabama	\$ 24 72
Bible Society of Maine	341 45
Buffalo City and Erie Co., N. Y.	273 31
Chicago, Ill.	\$ 65 40
Connecticut	50 00

FOREIGN AGENCIES			MISCELLANEOUS	
Jefferson Co., Shepherdstown Branch, W. Va. \$	40 00		Alden Memorial Fund In- come	\$ 13 08
McVean, Mich. ..	4 50		Annuity Account Invested	50 00
Maine	175 00		Annuity Dept.....	31,484 40
Massachusetts ..	2,000 00	\$500 00	Bible House Rentals.....	11,310 07
Mt. Zion, Mo.....	50 00		Bible Society Record....	7 00
Nashville, Tenn..			Blind Fund	4 10
New Castle, Del..	20 00	18 57	Burr, J., Legacy Income	543 82
New York Bible Society, N. Y.....		151 64	Diffusion of Information	6 05
Pike Grove, Wis..	22 50		Funds for Transmission..	605 35
Piqua Female, Ohio	200 00	200 00	General Salaries and Ex- penses	4 39
Randolph Co., Ill.	200 00		Gifts for the Blind:	
Rhode Island.....		16 55	From Churches \$2,065.34	
St. Louis, Mo.....	1 32		From Individuals 1,143.65	3,208 99
Salem Bible Assn., N. C.		4 29	Gifts from Churches....	35,195 79
Schoharie Co., N. Y.	54 90		Gifts from Individuals...	35,548 96
Sharon and Linn Grove, Iowa....	57 46		Huston, Chas. L., Legacy Fund	995 97
Westchester Co., N. Y.	600 00		Income from Available Investments	7,655 49
West Pawlet Welsh, Vt.....	33 00		Income from Legacies and Gifts, Trust Funds	11,446 28
	\$1,581 85		Legacy Equalization Fund	3,707 59
On Donation Ac- count	3,522 76		Legacy Expenses	2 35
	\$5,104 61		Manufacturing Credits..	5,518 65
			Maryland Bible Society for Peiping Bible House	3,500 00
			Miscellaneous Foreign...	100 00
			Ogg, Alex. W., Legacy Income	188 35
			Pension Income and Ex- pense	2,108 51
			Sage Bible House Fund..	3,217 26
			Special Annuity Income and Expenses	908 33
			The Trade	1,273 29
			Wragg, J. P. and J. E., Fund Investment	60 00
				\$158,664 07
			Total Cash Receipts..	\$229 911 79

CASH STATEMENT FOR DECEMBER, 1930

GENERAL CASH STATEMENT			DISBURSEMENTS	
RECEIPTS				
Balance from November, 1930.....	\$47,071 00		Bills of Exchange.....	\$19,808 04
Home Agencies.....	23,934 90		General Salaries and Expenses.....	5,849 05
Foreign Agencies	44 53		Treasurer's Office—Salaries and Expenses..	1,509 79
Miscellaneous Foreign	100 00		Bible House Expenses.....	5,272 95
Auxiliaries	1,581 85		Appeals	3,317 37
Trade	1,273 29		Diffusion of Information.....	2,492 18
Manufacturing Credits	5,518 65		Annuity Department.....	30,745 51
Bible Society Record.....	7 00		Bible Society Record.....	307 39
Bible House Rentals.....	11,310 07		Blind Fund	102 00
Gifts from Auxiliaries.....	3,522 76		Income from Available Investments.....	100 00
Gifts from Churches.....	35,195 79		Cash reserved for Publication Department..	94,456 55
Gifts from Individuals.....	35,548 96		Home Agencies	12,955 47
Gifts for Distribution to Blind.....	3,208 99		Foreign Agencies	5,111 46
Annuity Account.....	28,087 81		Funds Received for Transmission.....	605 35
Legacies	9,487 47		United States Trust Co.—Available Invest- ments	48,786 21
Income from Legacies and Gifts—Trust Funds	11,446 28		United States Trust Co.—Trust Funds.....	705 07
Income from Available Investments.....	7,655 49		United States Trust Co.—Annuity Account..	21,511 40
Alden Memorial Fund Income.....	13 08		Sage Bible House.....	50 00
Burr Legacy Income.....	543 82		Trust Funds Subject to Life Interest.....	120 00
Sage Bible House Fund Income.....	3,217 26		Translation and Revision.....	20 75
Alex. Ogg Legacy Income.....	188 35		Miscellaneous Home	289 64
Huston Legacy Income.....	995 97		Miscellaneous Foreign	487 94
Annuity Account Invested.....	50 00		Church Budget Costs.....	113 77
Wragg, Rev. and Mrs. J. P., Fund Invested	60 00		Legacy Expenses	227 85
Trust Fund Permanent—General Purpose..	4,575 72		Library	74 51
Maryland Bible Society on Account Bible House, Peiping	3,500 00		Pensions	316 74
Blind Fund	4 10		Income from Legacies and Gifts—Trust Funds	521 80
Legacy Expense	2 35		Special Annuity Income and Expense.....	875 33
Legacy Equalization Fund.....	3,707 59		Plate Account	4,018 55
Funds Received for Transmission.....	605 35		Payments to Auxiliaries	2,534 30
Special Annuity Income and Expense.....	908 33		Sundries	250 74
Pensions—Income and Expense.....	2,108 51		Gifts from Individuals.....	47 30
General—Salaries and Expenses.....	4 39		Balance to January, 1931.....	13,398 23
Diffusion of Information.....	6 05			
Annuity Department	31,484 40			
Returns from Scriptures Donated.....	12 63			
	\$276,982 74			\$276,982 74

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT CASH STATEMENT

Balance from November, 1930.....	\$43,277 37	Publication Department	\$38,936 46
Transferred from General Cash.....	94,456 55	Balance to January, 1931.....	98,797 46
	\$137,733 92		\$137,733 92
Total Cash Balance.....	\$112,195 69		

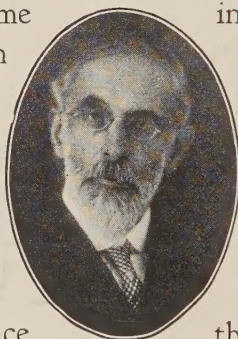
ONE OF THE MANY REASONS

Why Christian Investors Secure Our Annuity Bond Agreements

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Mr. G. R. W., of North Carolina, gives this unsolicited testimonial:

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